

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 /028 W

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R 271100Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4850

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 0852

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EINV, BTRA, PFOR, US, MZ

SUBJECT: GENERAL TIRE COMPANY-MABOR TIRE FACTORY

REF: STATE 177244

1. AMBASSADOR AND EMBOFF TOURED MABOR TIRE FACTORY IN MAPUTO JULY 22, AND TALKED WITH GENERAL TIRE REP ROBERT COPELAND AND MABOR PLANT MANAGER JOHN PARKS.

2. MABOR FACTORY IS IMPRESSIVE IN SIZE, EQUIPMENT, AND WORKER FACILITIES. FACTORY BUILDING IS NEARLY COMPLETE, SOME LARGE MOTORS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT ARE INSTALLED BUT NOT CONNECTED, AND LANDSCAPING IS UNDER WAY. PART OF LATEST SHIPMENT OF \$750,000 WORTH OF EQUIPMENT WAS ARRIVING AT PLANT DURING VISIT. ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT IS EXPECTED NEXT MONTH. PARKS NOTED SOME EQUIPMENT ARRIVED DAMAGED, BUT THOUGHT REPAIRS COULD BE MADE LOCALLY.

3. AFTER TOUR, PLAN TO BRINGING IN AMERICAN TECHNICIANS AND WORKMEN WAS DISCUSSED. COPELAND STATED THAT WHEN HE APPROACHED GENTIRE'S PORTUGUESE AFFILIATE ASKING POSSIBILITIES FINDING PORTUGUESE TECHNICIANS, HE RECEIVED LARGELY NEGATIVE REACTION. THEREFORE, COPELAND SAID GENERAL TIRE HAS THREE OPTIONS: (A) TO BRING IN AMERICAN TECHNICIANS; (B) TO ASSIGN COMPLETION AND OPERATION OF PLANT TO A FOREIGN ENGINEERING COMPANY (UNSPECIFIED); OR (C) TO PULL OUT ALTOGETHER. COPELAND STATED GENTIRE FAVORED FIRST OPTION, BUT WOULD ONLY BRING IN AMERICANS IF LIVING CONDITIONS WERE ADEQUATE, IF PROPERTY OF TECHNICIANS COULD BE

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PROTECTED, AND IF EMBASSY THOUGHT IT SUITABLE. COPELAND ASKED

ABOUT PERSONAL SECURITY OF AMERICAN WORKERS, AVAILABILITY OF GOODS, AND MEDICAL AND SCHOOL SITUATION.

4. AMBASSADOR AND EMBOFF DISCUSSED THESE AND OTHER CONCERNS AND EXPRESSED OPINION THAT, ON BALANCE, TECHNICIANS SHOULD BE BROUGHT IN. AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED, HOWEVER, THAT COMPANY SHOULD MAKE PRESENTATION TO GPRM MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE AND/OR MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC PLANNING BEFORE TECHNICIANS ARE BROUGHT IN. SUGGESTED PRESENTATION WOULD INCLUDE STATEMENT THAT GENERAL TIRE WOULD REQUIRE GUARANTEES OF ENTRY AND EXIT FOR TECHNICIANS AND THEIR FAMILIES AND WAIVER OF GPRM REQUIREMENTS ON RESTRICTING EXPORTATION, ON EITHER TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT BASIS, OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND PERSONAL PROPERTY.

5. AT CONCLUSION OF MEETING COPELAND DID NOT INDICATE WHICH OF THREE OPTIONS (PARA 3) HE WOULD RECOMMEND TO GENTIRE MANAGEMENT. EMBOFF LATER CHECKED WITH PARKS, WHO SAID HE THOUGHT COPELAND WAS UNDECIDED ON MATTER. COPELAND IS EXPECTED TO RETURN IN SEPTEMBER AFTER DISCUSSIONS IN AKRON. CARSON

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